THE Humble *PETITION*

Of the Mayor, Sheriffs, Juſtices, Aldermen and Common-Council of the City of *NORWICH*; to his Majeſty King *GEORGE*.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty.

OUR Fervent Zeal and Affection to your *pious* Perſon, and *prudent* Government, is in no wiſe unequal to the conſtant Tenour of Love and Duty, the reſt of the Nation has ſhewn, ſince your happy Acceſſion to the Throne; and we above all others can boaſt that we have been the greateſt Sufferers upon your Account of any City in *Great-Britain*.

We humbly deſire your Majeſty may be inform'd, by your Interpreters, that before the never to be forgot Revolution. We next to *London*, were the moſt Rich and Potent City in *England*, and that we were almoſt the firſt who declared againſt King JAMES, and pav'd the Way conſequentially for your Advancement to the Throne.

Our Apprentices for the moſt part were the Sons of the Gentlemen and Clergy, and there are many good Families in *Norfolk*, which have originally been Tranſplanted from this once flouriſhing City; We made Senators Lords and Biſhops, but our Sons are in the way at this Time of no other Tranſplantation, but to the Weſt-Indies for Felony, as they are drove to Extremities by Hunger and Want.

We have gradually ſince the Revolution, grown Poorer with the reſt of the Nation, till her late Majeſty of Glorious Memory, gave us ſome ſhort interval to breath in by a Peace, tho' we were at that Time too far gone to retrieve our former Proſperity.

We beg your Majeſty may likewiſe be inform'd, that the chief Support of this Nation is from the Woollen-Manufacture, and that this City wholly depends upon it, that *Norwich* Stuffs have been ſcrambled for in moſt Parts of *Europe*, and are ſuch as your Royal Iſſue would have been glad and might have worn, had your Country afforded any thing to have given in Exchange for them, nay 'twould have been better for us to have cloath'd your whole Family there, than ever been bleſt with their Company here.

France, *Spain* and *Turkey* have conſum'd vaſt Quantities of the aboveſaid Manufacture, all which Countries are or will be entirely loſt to us. France by the raiſing of her Coin, has made all Commerce impracticable with her, which might have been prevented, if your Majeſty in your late Quadruple Alliance as 'tis call'd, had but ſtipulated, that Forreigners ſhould not ſuffer by thoſe Changes, nor have their Properties lye at the Mercy of a French Edict; which by the, looks more like a Friend to Arbitrary Power, than any thing we pretendedly felt in the *Stuarts*, Reigns; but 'tis our misfortune that your Affection for us Engliſh Men, runs only in narrow Streams to the Sea of Hannover, to augument their Riches and Power.

Spain upon which was our great Dependance, is torn once more from us by a ſeemingly unavoidable new War, begun upon the infraction of the moſt ſolemn Treaty of *Utrecht*; a War which obviates the Renunciation the King of *Spain* has made of *France*, and paves a way for the Union of thoſe two Potent Kingdoms, and all this for the ſake of a German Emperor; with whom we never had any concern of Trade, who is a biggotted Papiſt, a Bloody Perſecutor of poor Proteſtants, and an implacable Enemy to the Iſle of *Great-Britain*.

Spain generouſly gave us the Liberty of the South-Seas for the advantage of our Trade, and we to recompence him have oblig'd our Selves to join in a War againſt him, without the leaſt Provocation, unleſs 'tis a breach of the Treaty to promote our Trade.

As for *Turkey*, the Fleet in the Mediterranean, will cut off all our Trade to that large Empire, and moreover our Merchants Effects there lye at the Mercy of one ſingle inſtance from the King of *Spain*, of which we are in daily expectation on Account of the barbarous Treatment we have given to ſuch a generous well-diſpos'd Prince; that will be a ſufficient Inducement to the *Grand-Seignior* to ſeize them all at once, while we are here bamboozl'd with the falſe Intelligence of a Peace, which at preſent is unlikely to be made.

We feel Poverty creeping upon us every Day, and we that furniſh'd all *Europe* with Cloathing, can't now afford decently to Cloath our Selves; Our Wives who went neat before, are now reduc'd to a level with the *French* Slavery, and carry Tokens thereof about them wherever they go: our Children, in vain cry for Bread, and their wants teach them in their Infancy when they can but juſt ſpeak, to ſtutter forth Curſes againſt you and your Iſſue: Our young Men have no Employ but to ſteal, a poor Trade in this Nation, to gather the Gleanings of ſuch cloſe Robbers as have gone before; our poor increaſe and the Rich forſake us, before your Acceſſion our whole City was not charg'd above eleven Hundred, and 'tis now rais'd to ten Thouſand Pounds *per Annum* to the Poor, and now we are moſt poor, our Wives are moſt pregnant.

Thus have we Reaſon to complain, that no Regard has been had to the Intereſt of this great City, nor even of the Kingdom in general; an Inſtance of which we humbly crave leave to lay before your Majeſty. The want of Free Trade to *Sweden* for Iron and other Commodities, have ſenſibly touch't the greateſt part of this Nation; the Poor Country-man who gains his living by the ſweat of his Brows, feels the raiſing of that Commodity as he plows his Ground, and groans with the double Affliction of ſubduing the ſtubborn Glebe, and paying Tribute of his Labour to the *Dutch*. This valuable Branch of our Trade, is delivered over intirely to them, for no other Reaſon but that they may ſell us Iron at their own Price, and make us pay even dear for the Yoke, you have put about our Necks.

We therefore humbly deſire your Majeſty to remove our Grievances by calling a New, Free unbrib'd Parliament, and put it to the Vote of an honeſt Engliſh Houſe of Commons, not aw'd by Threats or mov'd by Intereſt, what courſe ſhall be taken for our Deliverance, and we are ſure they cannot miſs of the true Expedient.

In granting this we ſhall be oblig'd to pray, &c.

How doth the City ſit Solitary that was full of People! how is ſhe become as a Widow! Lam. 1. 1.